Vol. 6 No. 8

National Congress Bulletin

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

APRIL, 1939

AN UNFORGETABLE EXPERIENCE

AT this spring season there are special privileges and responsibilities which come to you as local presidents. You are called upon to attend the larger group meetings of district and state, representing your own association and its membership. This message is a greeting to all local presidents who will be attending these meetings, and particularly to the thousands of you who will attend your state conventions.

I almost envy those of you who are attending a state convention for the first time. In the inspiration and the thrill of this meeting you will find what tens of thousands of local presidents have found before you—an unforgetable experience to be cherished always and never quite duplicated!

You will see the real "bigness" of the work in which we are engaged.

You will find a kinship of thought and endeavor with those who like yourself have undertaken the tasks of leadership in the organization.

You will learn that your problems are common problems and that they can be solved by the thinking and planning of the many who counsel together.

You will find a new stimulus for your own program and project and activity as you learn what others are doing.

You will hear of new opportunities in the field of child welfare and new methods of cooperation with community agencies to bring these about.

And last you will discover that local presidents have something unique to give to this great movement; that without your contribution and participation, there would be no great nationwide parent-teacher organization with its locals extending from coast to coast across the country. Upon the local president rests the entire structure and in your hands lies the future of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Your state and national leaders and officers join in a greeting and a tribute to you. May you find new courage and joy in all your parent-teacher gatherings!

Frances S. Potteiger

President,
National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Announcement

THE February issue of the BULLETIN carried the announcement that the National Office was to be moved to Chicago, and that the date of moving and the new address would be announced in the next issue of the BULLETIN. The date of moving has now been set as subsequent to May 15. Further details will be given in future issues of the BULLETIN.

NOMINATIONS

The nominating committee to nominate officers to be elected at the national convention in Cincinnati has submitted the following list of nominees for consideration:

Second vicepresident—
Dr. William McKinley Robinson, Michigan

Vicepresident from Region II—
Mrs. S. C. Cox, Virginia

Vicepresident from Region IV—
Mrs. L. G. Hughes, Indiana

Vicepresident from Region VI—
Mrs. M. A. Taylor, Texas

Tune In and Find Out

WINGS FOR THE MARTINS
NBC Blue Network

Wednesday, 9:30-10:00 P.M., E.S.T. Presented by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the U. S. Office of Education, and the National Broadcasting Company.

April 5
MAKING THE MOST OF THE LIBRARY

Like the school, the public library belongs to all the people. Do you make use of all the library services in your community? Do you go to the library for help in planning parent-teacher programs? Discover the many unusual services of the library—with the Martins.

April 12
HE DIDN'T MAKE THE TEAM

Why have athletics? Does your school work only for a winning team? Or does it plan for every child to have the type of physical training which he needs for health? Listen to the Martins and decide what your school should do.

April 19
THE RADIO MAKES DAD NERVOUS

What's a family to do when everyone wants a different program? When dad can't stand the noise? When Patricia can't endure Jimmy's mystery plays? These are some of the Martins' radio troubles. What are yours? Listen in, and you may get help to solve them.

April 26
LEARNING TO COOPERATE

Cooperation is one of the big lessons of life. How can it be taught? In what home and school activities do children find opportunity to cooperate? In what community activities? To what extent is teaching cooperation the business of the home? Of the school?

Signposts and Guides

INTERPRETING THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

"A CONGRESS parent-teacher association provides a means for coordinating the interests, energies, and leadership of a community in an inclusive program for child and civic welfare."—FROM THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES.

■ ■ ■

THE cooperative program which was indicated in the objects agreed upon by the National Congress of Mothers in 1897 has been continued and emphasized throughout the past forty-two years. The similarity of the objectives of the National Congress to those of other organizations which maintain programs affecting child welfare, makes possible the development of civic or community coordinated programs to promote group thinking and cooperative action toward common ends.

General Principles

A PARENT-TEACHER program involving cooperation with other organizations or agencies should be guided by accepted principles. These principles include:

1. An understanding of the program, objectives, and authorized procedures of each group.

2. Recognition of the fact that the type of cooperation is limited by policies outlined in the bylaws and standing rules of each participating group.

3. Detailed plans agreed upon by each group as to the responsibilities involved.

Types of Coordinated Efforts

COOPERATION on a national basis is carried on through the following:

1. Definitely established cooperation with specific government and national agencies; for example, a radio program in cooperation with the U. S. Office of Education; a parent education project with the National Council of Parent Education; a safety project with the National Safety Council.

2. Special activities to promote current emphases such as the White House Conference and the Conference on Better Care for Mothers and Babies.

3. Cooperation in making available materials, personnel, and programs of mutual interest; for example, the promotion of American Education Week, which is sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education, National Education Association, National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the American Legion.

COOPERATION on a statewide basis is usually carried on with such agencies and organizations as state boards of education, state departments of health, state library commissions, and state teacher associations.

A COOPERATIVE program in the local community usually has for its objectives:

1. The education of the public in behalf of needed projects.

2. The development of a coordinated program in such common interests as schools, crime prevention, libraries, recreational projects.

ORGANIZATIONS in a community with the same objectives and the same realization of a definite community need, sometimes work together as a conference group or clearinghouse to encourage the extension and improvement of needed projects and to prevent duplication of efforts. The cooperative program has a specific purpose but the achievement of this definite objective should in no way interfere with the work of the individual organizations.

THE parent-teacher association sometimes cooperates upon request in a plan presented by some other group. If a need is particularly a parent-teacher concern, the parent-teacher association may take the initiative. The parent-teacher association offers an ideal channel through which the interests, energies, and leadership of a community may be coordinated.

A LOCAL parent-teacher association can help to meet the needs of the community through cooperating with social service agencies, churches, and other groups working for civic improvement in such activities as:

1. *Promoting the passage of ordinances and laws for the care, protection, and education of children and youth.*
2. *Developing a year-round recreation program for children and adults.*
3. *Cooperating with law enforcement agencies in removing obscene literature from newsstands.*
4. *Working with the churches and character education groups in a survey of community conditions which affect the well-being of children and youth.*

In considering a cooperative project all facts and findings should be pooled and the parent-teacher association should add its own unique contribution.

About Publications

LOOKING FORWARD

Parent-Teacher Guidebook—A new publication is to be offered to local Congress units—a new book to combine under one cover all the material formerly given in leaflets and pamphlets developing committee subjects. This one book, the size of the *Manual*, will bring to each Congress unit a picture of the broad field of parent-teacher work. It is called *Parent-Teacher Guidebook* and this, like the *Manual*, will be made available for the use of the local president and for the chairman of the program committee.

Many associations will want several additional copies for reading, for reference, for source material, for talks, for a general overview of the Congress program.

The *Parent-Teacher Guidebook* will be published in time to be displayed at the Cincinnati Convention.

Our National Convention

THEME : FREEDOM FOR GROWTH
TIME : MAY 1-4, 1939
PLACE : CINCINNATI, OHIO

PLANS for the 1939 National Convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers in Cincinnati, May 1 to May 4, are well under way. Preconvention meetings will begin Friday, April 28.

A PROGRAM of unusual interest on the theme, "Freedom for Growth," is being prepared by Mrs. J. K. Pettengill, national president, and the program committee. The general sessions each day will develop one of the following important aspects of the theme: Self-Realization, Human Relationships, Economic Effectiveness, and Civic Responsibility. These topics constitute the four purposes of education in American democracy, as established by the Educational Policies Commission.

AT the morning session a speaker will present the topic of the day. The topic will be further considered at the afternoon session by guest discussants and national committee chairmen.

Sunday, April 30

A TEA at the University of Cincinnati at 4:00 P.M. will give delegates an opportunity to become acquainted.

- A vesper service will follow the tea at 6:00 P.M., at which time the spiritual values relating to liberty will be stressed.

Monday, May 1

FORMAL opening of the convention will take place Monday at 9:00 A.M. at the Netherland Plaza Hotel. The convention theme, "Freedom for Growth," to be presented by the national president, is to be developed during the convention sessions in terms of the purposes of education.

- Self-Realization, the first purpose of education, will be the subject of Monday's general sessions. Emphasis will be placed on the responsibility of society for providing the opportunities through which the individual may become his own best self.
- At 11:15 A.M., national chairmen will conduct conferences on the following subjects: Program Service, Publicity, Child Hygiene, Procedure and Bylaws, Safety, School Education.

Tuesday, May 2

HUMAN Relationships will be the topic of Tuesday's general sessions. Since parent-teacher work deals with the individual in relation to home, school, and community environment, this subject is of paramount importance.

- Subjects of conferences to be conducted by national chairmen Tuesday morning are as follows: National Parent-Teacher, Summer Round-Up of the Children, Character Education, Homemaking, International Relations, Motion Pictures and Visual Education, and Radio.
- Election of National Officers will take place Tuesday. Officers to be elected are the second vicepresident and vicepresidents from three regions.

Local Unit Reports

Have you made your annual report of progress? The official report blank, of which there is a small facsimile in the *Manual*, pages 133-135, is now undoubtedly in your hands. This report, sent to the state branches according to state instructions, is planned to give to state leaders a picture of the work of your association for the past year. When summarized by the state leaders, it will bring to the National Congress an opportunity to know the present interests and to forecast the future needs of local associations.

Both the state branches and the National Congress are eagerly awaiting these reports.

The Kentucky Congress will be host to delegates for a boat trip on the Ohio River, following the general session Tuesday afternoon.

Wednesday, May 3

ON WEDNESDAY, May 3, Economic Effectiveness will be the topic of the general sessions. The responsibility of education to maintain and improve the social value to society of the work of the individual will be stressed.

- Subjects of conferences to be conducted by national chairmen following the general session Wednesday forenoon are as follows: Congress Publications, Membership, Home Education, Legislation, Library Service, Mental Hygiene, and Rural Service.
- A dinner for voting delegates and a general reception will be held Wednesday evening.

Thursday, May 4

THE focal point of interest on Thursday will be Civic Responsibility. The responsibility of education to give the individual a full realization of what democracy means, the privileges which it affords, and the ways and means through which it may be achieved, will be emphasized.

- National chairmen's conferences to be held Thursday forenoon are as follows: Founders Day, Student Aid, Exceptional Child, Juvenile Protection, Parent Education, Art, Recreation, Music, Social Hygiene.
- The convention will close Thursday evening.

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Hotel Reservations

THE Netherland Plaza Hotel is the convention headquarters. Other Cincinnati hotels easily accessible to the convention headquarters are: Hotel Gibson, Hotel Sinton, Metropole Hotel, Fountain Square Hotel. Hotel rates are $2.50-$6.00 for a single room; and $4.00-$8.00 for a double room. Lower rates are available for rooms for three and four occupants. Reservations should be made early, since other meetings which will overlap the national convention may tax the capacity of the hotels.

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our PTA is planning to use the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER

more extensively in its work. Please enter the following three subscriptions. One copy will be used by the president, one by the program chairman, and one by the study group chairman. Send the three copies each month to . . .

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This is a good time to subscribe to the NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER!

THOSE who subscribe now will have an opportuntiy to read the Magazine all through spring and summer. When parent-teacher activities are resumed in the fall, readers will have a better knowledge and understanding of the work.

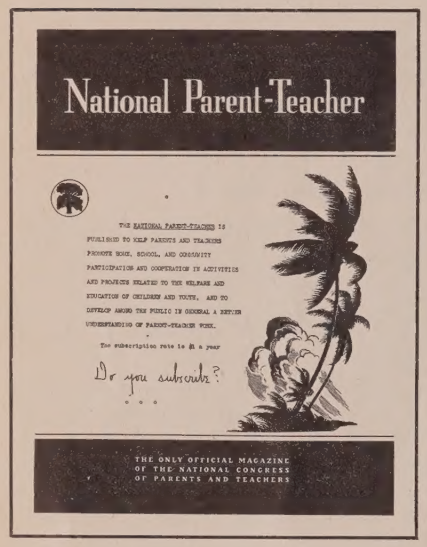
IN addition to furnishing vital information on subjects to which more and more members are giving serious consideration, the *National Parent-Teacher* develops parent-teacher enthusiasm and interest. As one leader aptly puts it: "Keep the *National Parent-Teacher* before the members and it will keep the P.T.A. before them."

DOES your school library have a subscription to the *National Parent-Teacher?* The material in our official magazine is of interest to students as well as to parents and teachers.

NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER
1201 16th St. N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Over . . .

Our National Magazine


National Parent-Teacher
THE NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER IS PUBLISHED TO HELP PARENTS AND TEACHERS PROMOTE HOME, SCHOOL, AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION IN ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS RELATING TO THE WELFARE AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND TO DEVELOP AMONG THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PARENT-TEACHER WORK.
The subscription rate is $1 a year
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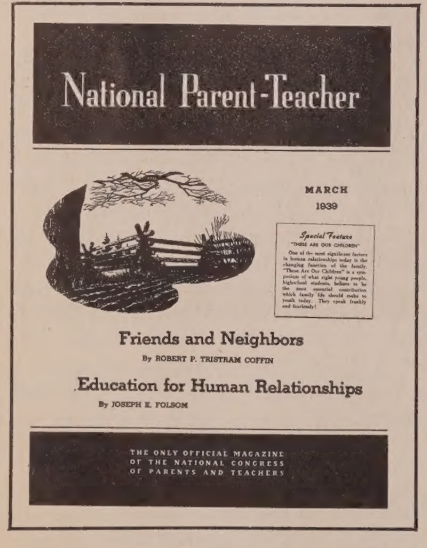

THE illustrations on this page are reproductions of *National Parent-Teacher* posters. Articles and illustrations clipped from the Magazine were mounted on a Magazine cover, then photographed and enlarged. The enlarged photograph was then mounted on bright blue poster board. These posters added a colorful touch to the P.T.A. booth where they were exhibited.

PREVIEW OF THE APRIL ISSUE

ON every hand we hear discussion of vocational guidance and education for our young people. Seldom, it seems, have young people been in such need of competent advice and guidance. A hundred years ago "economic efficiency" was an unknown term. Today it has important meaning. It is recognized as one of the purposes of education in American democracy. Through economic efficiency youth and adults as well may use their talents to the best advantages in useful and self-chosen work. With economic efficiency may come economic security so essential to human life. Parents and teachers working together may help to create for children and youth this needed security, and discover new foundations for happiness. This is the problem with which the April issue is concerned.

ONE would be hard put to find a home in which there are boys and girls approaching employable age and in which the problem of being prepared to earn a living is not insistent. Edwin A. Lee discusses the problem of "Education for Economic Efficiency," pointing out how the school program may prepare children to select an occupation, to succeed in it, and to appreciate the social value of their work. This article is the fourth in our series based on *The Purposes of Education in American Democracy.*

"AMERICAN parents spoil their children by being too indulgent!" Again and again American parents have been charged with this fault. What are really the significant traits of American family life? And what is their influence upon democratic government and good citizenship? The authority of Ernest R. Groves to speak for the family and society is well-known and respected by parent-teacher people. And it is he who discusses democratic government and the family in this month's parent-teacher study course article, "The Forward Stretch."

DEANS and counselors of college students, especially of freshmen, report that many difficulties arise from the problem of handling money. Are these young people wholly to blame? How can they be helped to manage money? This is the subject of Sidonie Matsner Gruenberg's article. "Youth's Money Problems" cannot be met by any home alone. Here parents and teachers will have to join with other community groups. "Youth," says Mrs. Gruenberg, herself a parent, "is our problem."

THE city, the town, the village, the open country—what have these to offer to youth and to each other? To many the city appears to have overwhelming importance. It is variously spoken of as the center of culture, the seat of understanding, the breeding place of crime. Just what are its advantages, its possibilities, its problems? Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann answers these questions in "Growing Up in the City." But does not the city owe much to the environing countryside? And what is the interaction between the two? Dr. Ernest T. Burnham gives us a picture of this interaction in "City and Country — Give and Take."

Other articles and features: "Chores, Work or Fun" by Bess Naylor Rosa, and "Making the Most of Success and Failure" by Annabelle Pollock. The April issue also includes an editorial by the Right Reverend James E. Freeman, Bishop of Washington; the eighth article on the Guiding Principles, contributed by Mrs. William Kletzer; Books in Review; and the President's Message with an inspiring Easter word.

Special Feature

■ To the boy or girl interested in choosing a vocation, and to the parent and teacher anxious that the best guidance be given, comes the common question of what fields of work offer the best opportunities not only for placement but for job satisfaction, reasonable security, and economic efficiency. Are there vocations for which a boy or girl can prepare with a reasonable degree of certainty that a position will be available? If so, what are they? These questions are answered in "The Promise of Tomorrow" by Walter E. Myer who has advised countless numbers of young people about their careers.